AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A dispersion of colored particles which is prepared by emulsifying a mixture comprising a colorant and polymer by employing a reactive emulsifier, and subsequently copolymerizing the emulsified mixture with a polymerizable monomer, wherein the colorant is an oil-soluble dye, and a peak particle diameter of the colored particles is at most 50 nm.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the colored particles are in a core/shell structure.

4. (Previously presented) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein a ratio of the colorant to the polymer is 1 : 0.1 – 1 : 5 by weight.

5. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifier comprises a group represented by A, B, or C:

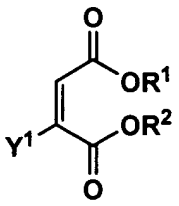
A: a straight chain alkyl group, a branched alkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, each having at least 7 carbon atoms,

B: a nonionic or anionic group which results in surface activity,

C: a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized.

6. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (1),

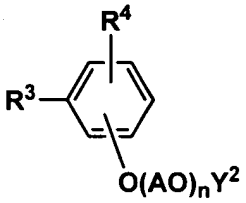
(1)



wherein R^1 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, R^2 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized, and Y^1 represents sulfonic acid, carboxylic acid or salts thereof.

7. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (2),

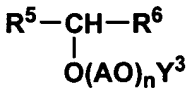
(2)



wherein R^3 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, R^4 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized, Y^2 represents a hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid and salts thereof, or carboxylic acid and salts thereof, AO represents alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide.

8. (Original) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (3),

(3)



wherein R^5 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group,

R^6 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized,

Y^3 represents a hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid and salts thereof, or carboxylic acid and salts thereof, and

AO alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide.

9. (Previously presented) The dispersion of claim 7, wherein an average degree n is 1 – 10.

10. (Previously presented) The dispersion of claim 5, wherein the reactive emulsifier is anionic.

11. (Currently amended) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein a polymer which constitutes the colored particles contains an acrylic polymer or a styrene-acrylic polymer.

12. (Original) An aqueous ink comprising the dispersion of colored particles of claim 1.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) An image forming method by ejecting an ink onto a image recording member by employing an ink jet recording apparatus wherein the aqueous ink of claim 12 is ejected.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein the ~~colorant~~ dye is an oil-soluble dye.

17. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein the colored particles are in a core/shell structure.

18. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein a ratio of the colorant to the polymer is 1 : 0.1 – 1 : 5 by weight.

19. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier comprises a group represented by A, B, or C:

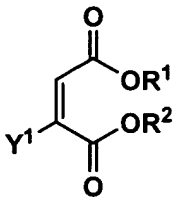
A: a straight chain alkyl group, a branched alkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, each having at least 7 carbon atoms,

B: a nonionic or anionic group which results in surface activity,

C: a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized.

20. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (1),

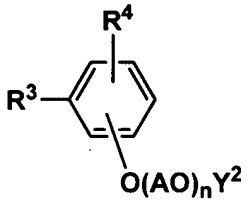
(1)



wherein R^1 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, R^2 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized, and Y^1 represents sulfonic acid, carboxylic acid or salts thereof.

21. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (2),

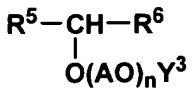
(2)



wherein R^3 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group, R^4 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized, Y^2 represents a hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid and salts thereof, or carboxylic acid and salts thereof, AO represents alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide.

22. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier is represented by Formula (3),

(3)



wherein R^5 represents a straight chain alkyl group or a branched alkyl group having 7 – 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group,

R^6 represents a group having a polymerizable group capable of being radically polymerized,

Y^3 represents a hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid and salts thereof, or carboxylic acid and salts thereof, and

AO alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide, and n represents a degree of polymerization of alkylene oxide.

23. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 21, wherein an average degree n is 1 – 10.

24. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein the reactive emulsifier is anionic.

25. (Previously presented) The preparation method of claim 29, wherein the polymer which constitutes colored particles contains an acrylic polymer or a styrene-acrylic polymer.

26. (Previously presented) The dispersion of claim 8, wherein an average degree n is 1 – 10.

27. (Previously presented) The dispersion of claim 22, wherein an average degree n is 1 – 10.

28. (Previously presented) A dispersion of colored particles which is prepared by dissolving a polymer and a dye in an organic solvent, emulsifying the dissolved polymer and a dye in an organic solvent by employing a reactive emulsifier, and subsequently copolymerizing the emulsified mixture with a polymerizable monomer,

wherein, a peak particle diameter of the colored particles is at most 50 nm.

29. (Previously presented) A preparation method of dispersion of colored particles comprising a polymer and a colorant wherein the method comprises the steps of:

dissolving a polymer and a dye in an organic solvent,

adding a reactive emulsifier thereto,

emulsifying the dissolved dye and the polymer in water, then

adding a monomer, and

polymerizing the monomer with the polymer,

wherein a peak particle diameter of the colored particles is at most 50 nm.

30. (Previously presented) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the peak particle diameter of colored particles is 3 to 50 nm.

31. (Previously presented) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the peak particle diameter of colored particles is 5 to 30 nm.

32. (Canceled)